

HIGHLIGHTS FOR BIG HEADS

ALA Annual Meeting, June 2006

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RECRUITMENT

As I mentioned in January, we successfully recruited for two key positions this Spring. Roberta (Robin) Dougherty began March 1 as the Middle East Studies Librarian. This is a difficult position to fill as it requires someone who can do it all.... selection, acquisitions, cataloging, reference, etc. We are very pleased that Robin accepted our offer. She is fluent in Arabic and has facility in Persian and Turkish. Jill Emery began May 15 in a new position as Head Librarian, Serials and Electronic Resources Department. We are very pleased to have Jill on staff as she is very active professionally and well known on the national level. Jill is receiving the Esther J. Piercy Award this Sunday at the ALCTS Award Ceremony.

ILS

We signed an agreement with ILL in April to upgrade our current Acquisitions and Serials Acquisitions modules from Innopac's character based system to Millennium as well as purchase the OPAC, Circulation and Cataloging modules. The initial training sessions start this week (June 20-22) and will continue into Spring 07 with a go-live date of June 07. We currently run SFX and Metalib, but have yet to purchase an ERM module. We hope that Jill Emery can help us decide what will work best with the various applications we own.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

We continue to look at ways to improve our processes with an eye towards reducing the amount of resources that we direct towards supporting print materials. In anticipation of implementing ILL and hoping to learn from others, Tim Strawn, our Head of Cataloging and Metadata, and I took several field trips to ILL sites. In February/March, we visited and met with staff from University of California, San Diego, University of Washington and Ohio State. The Technical Services Planning Team continued to meet through the Spring to review current routines and make recommendations on revamping our work flow and staffing patterns. We are currently questioning all of our current routines to see what can be reduced, changed or eliminated.

We are about to receive our first round of PromptCat books with Blackwells. We experimented with PromptCat in 1997 with both YBP and

Blackwells, but later abandoned it. This time we hope to make it stick. We are starting with English language print materials and then plan to expand to other languages as well as non-print materials.

NEW PROJECTS

Two new library projects have involved Technical Services staff. We have joined with Rice, Texas Tech, University of Houston and Texas A&M to form the Texas Digital Library. Our initial contributions included our e-dissertations and electronic maps. We are also involved in a new project to digitize the unique materials in the Benson Latin American Collection. We are currently taking bids on outsourcing the digitization and hope to start with 1,000 volumes. We also plan to digitize a number of volumes in-house.